THE
# Dan Smoot Report

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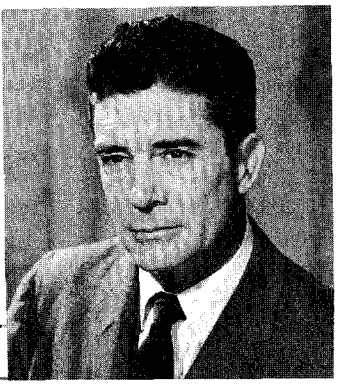

DAN SMOOT

## RACE WARS, U.S.A. - PART III

When Negro mobs burned and pillaged Watts in 1965, President Johnson said the real reasons for Negro unrest were discrimination, disease, poverty, poor housing, unemployment, lack of educational opportunity. In sum, the President's attitude was that, though the Negro violence was regrettable, Negroes could not really be blamed, because the nation (the white portion of it, presumably) forced Negroes to live under oppression. The President pledged his administration to continue his Great Society programs until all violence-breeding conditions are eliminated.

When Negro street violence reached a peak in the summer of 1966, Johnson made a speech in Buffalo, saying that, while such violence was inexcusable, the real causes of the violence were discrimination, disease, poverty, poor housing, unemployment, and so on. He announced plans for a coordinated attack on these causes of violence.[1]

On July 18, 1967, while the ruins of Newark were still smoking in the wake of Negro violence, President Johnson said such violence is intolerable; *but*, he said, it is caused by discrimination, disease, poverty, and so on — and predicted that such riots will continue until Congress appropriates all the money he has asked for Great Society programs to eliminate the causes of rioting. He specified 3 of his programs which Congress has "authorized" but has not yet financed to the extent he wants: rent supplements, model cities, war on poverty.[2]

In a television speech to the nation on the night of July 27, 1967 — while Negro violence was raging in Detroit and other cities — President Johnson said such crimes must be dealt with forcefully and swiftly, and the criminals punished. He announced that he had appointed a National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders to find out why riots occur and what can be done to prevent them. For a few minutes, it sounded as if the President was having doubts about the causes of Negro riots, about where to place the blame, and about the remedy.

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But after naming the persons appointed to his National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, the President disclosed that he does not really need a commission to tell him what causes Negro riots or how to prevent them. He already knows just what he knew at the time of Watts in 1965: Negroes cannot really be blamed for their violence; the real causes are discrimination, disease, poverty, poor housing, and so on; the remedy is to spend more tax money to eliminate the causes.

In his July 27, 1967, television speech, President Johnson said:

**"The only genuine, long-range solution for what has happened lies in an attack — mounted at every level — upon the conditions that breed despair and breed violence . . . .**

**"Those conditions are ignorance, discrimination, slums, poverty, disease, not enough jobs . . . .**

**"In the past three and a half years, we have directed the greatest governmental effort in all of our American history at these ancient enemies.**

**"The roll-call of those laws reveals the depth of our American concern — the Model Cities Act, the Voters Rights Act, the Civil Rights Act, the Rent Supplement Act, Medicare and Medicaid, the 24 educational bills, Head Start, the Job Corps, the Neighborhood Youth Corps, the Teachers Corps, manpower development and training. And many, many more acts too numerous to mention on television tonight.**

**"And we will continue to press for laws which would protect our citizens from violence: like the Safe Streets and Crime Control Act now under consideration in the Congress, and the Gun Control Act. And our work has just begun.**

**"Yet there are those who feel that even this beginning is too much. There are those who would have us turn back even now, at the beginning of this journey.**

**"Last week in Congress a small but important plan for action in the cities was voted down in the House of Representatives. The members of that body rejected my request for $20-million to fight the pestilence of rats — rats which prowl in dark alleys and tenements and attack thousands of city children.**

**"The passage of this legislation would have meant much to the children of the slums. And a strong Government that has spent millions to protect baby calves from worms [referring to a program in which the federal government unconstitutionally subsidizes the treatment of cattle for screwworms] could surely afford to show as much concern for baby boys and girls.**

**"And there are some tonight who feel that we cannot afford a model cities program. And they reduced my request for funds for this year by two-thirds . . . .**

**"This is . . . . a time for action, starting with legislative action to improve the life in our cities . . . .**

**"It is responsible Negro citizens who hope most fervently and need most urgently to share in America's growth and in America's prosperity.**

**"And this is no time to turn away from that goal."**[3]

Johnson's statements about the causes and cures of Negro violence need a little footnoting, to say the least.

As to "rats which . . . attack thousands of city children": the incidence of rat bites in Detroit is less than 20 a year.[4] There are far more rats in the open country than in all cities put together, because that is where rats can find food; but the President expresses no concern for the country-rat problem, possibly because there are not as many Negro votes in the country as in the city. The federal government has no constitutional authority to intervene in the rat problem; and there is no need for such intervention. Rats would starve in slums and disappear if slum dwellers would stop dumping garbage in open places and leaving piles of junk where rats can hide and breed. It is the slovenly irresponsibility of people, and not lack of money, which causes city rat problems.

The President mentioned his Safe Streets and Crime Control Act as something which would "protect our citizens from violence" if only Congress would pass it. The bill the President wanted would have put police departments on federal subsidies (which, of course, is unconstitutional), with the U.S. Attorney General in charge of dispensing the tax money and telling



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local police what to do. The bill did not provide measures to encourage swift arrest and punishment of criminals, but emphasized the sociological nonsense of "rehabilitation" and removal of social and economic conditions which "cause" people to commit crime.[5]

The present Attorney General — Ramsey Clark — is already on record for more outpouring of tax money to Negroes as the only means of keeping them from rioting, saying:

**"The real cause of the riots is the explosive frustration and impatience of those who suffer from the slum housing, unemployment, inadequate education and training programs, and all the other deprivations which are so characteristic of the ghetto."**[6]

Ramsey Clark is as reluctant as his predecessors Nicholas Katzenbach and Robert Kennedy to prosecute Negro rioters and other "civil rights" hoodlums. Indeed, Clark cannot even think of any way to prosecute Stokely Carmichael who has caused several bloody riots.[7]

On August 4, 1967, Representative William E. Minshall (Ohio Republican) wrote President Johnson urging him to fire Ramsey Clark, or to make him enforce federal laws clearly applicable to such people as Carmichael, Hubert Rap Brown, Floyd McKissick, and others — who incite rebellion and insurrection; urge Negroes to kill whites; advocate overthrow of the government by force and violence; interfere with the operation of our armed forces; encourage evasion of the Selective Service Act. Not hearing from the President, Minshall, on August 9, introduced a bill to remove the Justice Department from the executive branch and to place it under congressional authority.

The House will pay no attention to Minshall's bill; but it did revise the President's Safe Streets and Crime Control Act, to place more emphasis on law enforcement than on uplifting criminals; and it gave *state governors*, rather than the U.S. Attorney General, control of most of the unconstitutional dispensing of tax money to local police.[5]

The President criticized Congress for not passing his gun-control law, and so did Senator Thomas Dodd, the Kennedys, and practically all other liberals, including New Jersey's liberal Democrat Governor Richard J. Hughes.[8] We already have 2 unconstitutioinal federal gun-control laws which do no good. New Jersey has a gun-control law far more stringent than the federal law Governor Hughes wants Congress to pass, and so does neighboring New York and every other state where major Negro riots have occurred.

The grim truth is that rioters do not obey gun-control laws any more than they obey laws against murder, arson, assaulting police officers, theft, vandalism. Gun-control laws merely tend to disarm decent citizens, at a time when every decent citizen ought to have easy access to a gun for protection.

Most liberals argue that gun-control laws will make it more difficult for rioters and other hoodlums to obtain firearms. If hoodlums who want deadly weapons cannot buy them openly, they will make them or steal them. Some Negroes who rioted in New Jersey stole semi-automatic rifles from a munitions factory. Shall we outlaw munitions plants to make it difficult for criminals to get guns?

If President Johnson, Attorney General Ramsey Clark, the Kennedy boys, Senator Dodd, and other liberals really think it would help prevent riots to pass another unconstitutional federal law to "control" weapons used by rioters, they should, logically, legislate against the weapons that do far more damage than guns: such as gasoline, matches, bottles, bricks, rocks, clubs, crowbars.

Vice President Hubert Humphrey — in his fatuous way — parrots Johnson's line that we must have law and order and criminals must be punished and not excused — *but* there is an excuse for Negro mobs, since they riot because they are discriminated against, oppressed, forced to live in slums, and kept unemployed; and the blame for Negro violence should really be placed on Congress for not passing and funding, immediately, every Great Society program exactly as the President requests.



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In listing the crushing abuses under which Negroes live, Humphrey mentions one not yet publicly discussed by the President — one that Humphrey might have got from Drew Pearson, since Pearson wrote about it[9] publicly before Humphrey got around to it. Speaking to an AFL-CIO convention in Ft. Worth on August 4, 1967, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey blamed the race riots on *television* and poverty. Negroes sit around and watch television and see the affluent life they do not have, the Vice President said, and this creates "restlessness and despair."[10]

If they are in poverty, who provides the television sets which drive them to despair? Why do they not turn the things off and go to work, since the help-wanted sections of newspapers in all metropolitan areas are filled with unanswered pleas for workers? How restless will they become after they have watched for a while the tv sets they have looted while rioting?

Hubert could doubtless find liberal platitudes to answer those questions; but, unfortunately, none of his adoring audience at the AFL-CIO convention asked.

In the July 27 television speech that was staged as a nonpolitical, sobering, reassuring call to all the people for law and order and prayer — at a time when the nation was horrified at what was happening in Detroit — Lyndon Johnson got in his political licks.

He bragged about what he had done in his three and a half years as President to eliminate all the conditions "that . . . breed violence," listing programs he has initiated (all of them unconstitutional) which represent the squandering of multiplied billions of tax dollars. He admitted he had initiated "many, many more acts too numerous to mention" in his efforts to eliminate all the conditions that breed violence. He blamed Congress because more tax money had not been spent. He made an outrageously demagogic effort to rile the people against Congress for the obvious purpose of bringing emotional public pressure on legislators to approve all of his pending proposals.

But he failed to mention that *all* the most horrible Negro mob violence in our cities has occurred in the three and a half years he has been spending tax money to eliminate the conditions which he says breed the violence.

Mob violence and rampaging crime have increased in almost exact proportion to increases in the spending of tax money on Johnson's Great Society programs. Johnson says "our work has just begun." Will his work be finished when all our cities have been reduced to smoldering ruins and our civilization has disintegrated into anarchy and barbarism?

Johnson's Great Society is a greedy society, founded on the welfare-state philosophy that government is responsible for giving the people what they want and that people are not responsible for their own inadequacies, indolence, and crimes. This philosophy has destroyed other civilizations, and it is rapidly destroying ours.

NEXT WEEK: More on the racial wars.

**FOOTNOTES**

(1) "Johnson Reminded Urban Ills No. 1," UPI dispatch from Washington, *The Dallas Times Herald*, July 16, 1967, p. A24

(2) "Riots Tied To Poverty By Johnson," by Karen Klinefelter, *The Dallas Morning News*, July 19, 1967, p. A8

(3) "Transcript of Johnson's TV Address on the Riots," *The New York Times*, July 29, 1967, p. 9

(4) "Rats—Latest National Issue," *U.S. News & World Report*, August 14, 1967, p. 35

(5) New York Times News Service dispatch from Washington, *The Dallas Morning News*, August 13, 1967, p. A2

(6) AP dispatch from Washington, *The Dallas Times Herald*, July 18, 1967, p. A3

(7) "Race Troubles: Record of 109 Cities," *U.S. News & World Report*, August 14, 1967, pp. 28-30; "Federal Action Against Black Power Chiefs Snarled by Moral, Legal, Historic Issues," AP article by Joseph E. Mohbat, distributed from Washington, *The Oregonian*, August 10, 1967, p. 9

(8) New York Times News Service dispatch from New York, *The Dallas Morning News*, July 24, 1967, p. A1

(9) "Merry-Go-Round," by Drew Pearson, Winfield, Kansas, *Daily Courier*, July 21, 1967, p. 2

(10) "HHH Asks Labor To Fight Poverty," by Ron Calhoun, *The Dallas Times Herald*, August 5, 1967, p. A6


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